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Duggins

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(54) **HARDWARE ASSEMBLY FOR DRAWER SLIDE WITH DAMPENING MECHANISM**

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A47B 88/477 (2017.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***A47B 88/477*** (2017.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC A47B 88/477; A47B 88/467; A47B 88/487
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An assembly is to be mounted on a drawer slide to provide dampening to a drawer for an enclosure. The enclosure includes a front wall having a cutout area with merging lower and side edges. The drawer slide includes a stationary member mounted to the enclosure and a sliding member attached to the drawer. The assembly includes; a dampening mechanism having front and rear ends, the dampening mechanism configured to prevent slamming of the drawer during closing and to maintain the drawer in a closed position, the dampening mechanism having a hook that engages an activator mounted on the drawer; a front mounting bracket attached to the front end of the dampening mechanism, the front mounting bracket configured to mount to and engage the side edge of the cabinet and the stationary member of the drawer slide; and a rear mounting bracket

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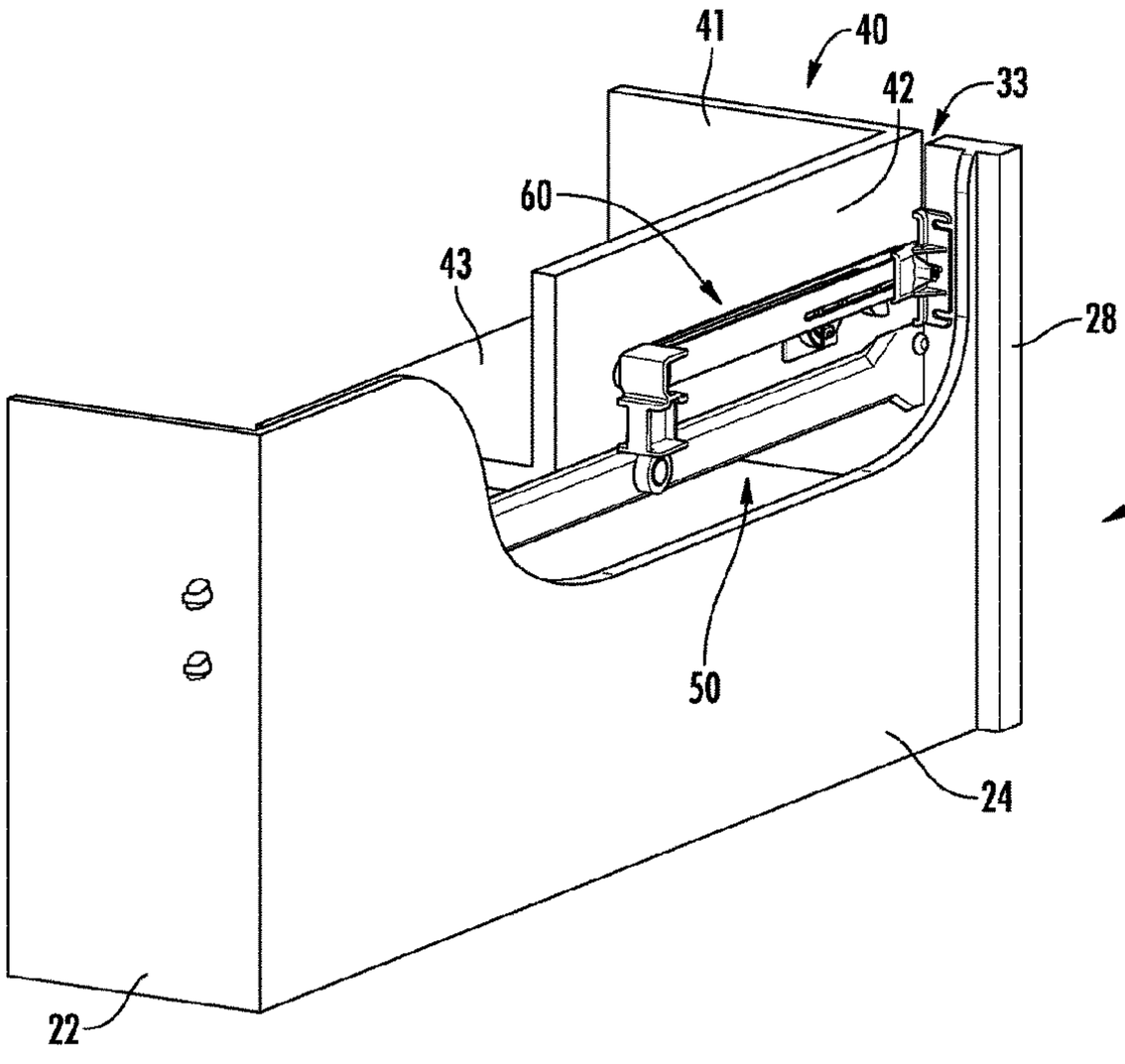

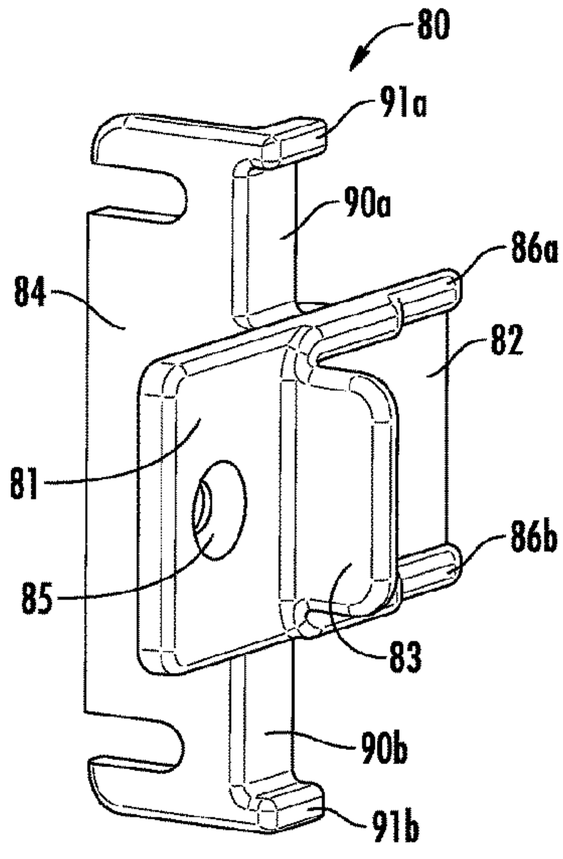

attached to the dampening mechanism rearwardly of the front mounting bracket, the rear mounting bracket configured to mount to and engage the stationary member of the drawer slide.

18 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets

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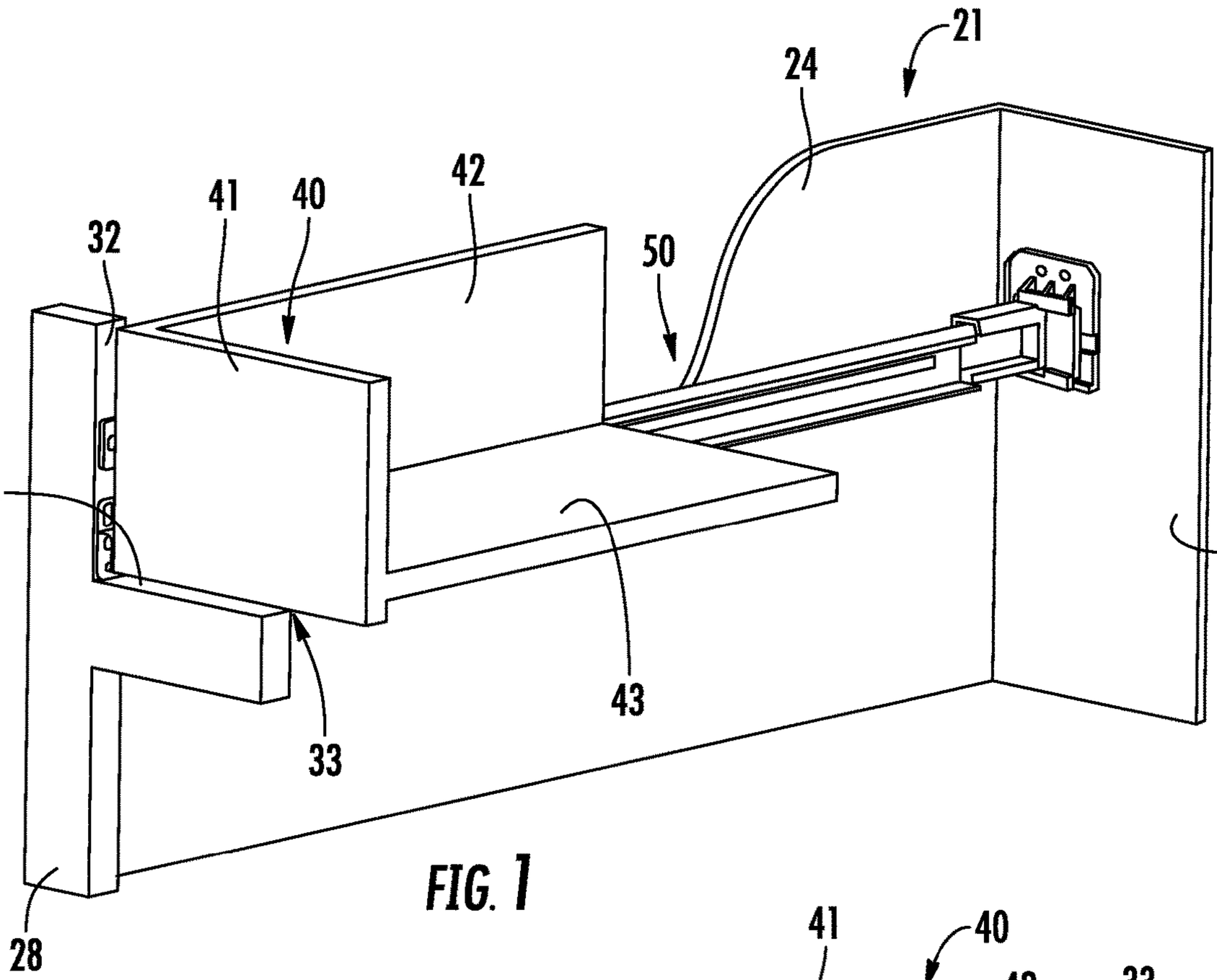

FIG. 1

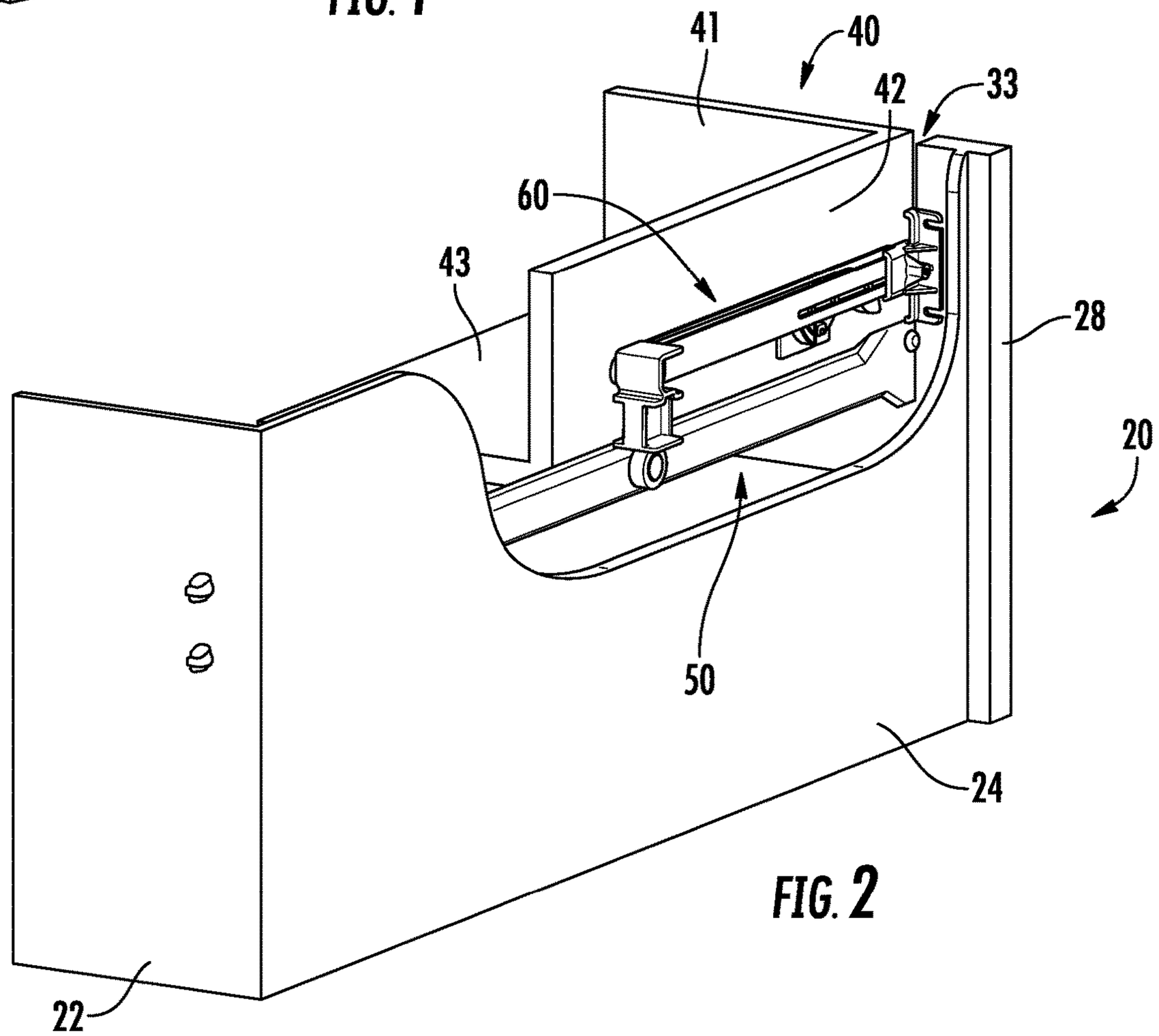

FIG. 2

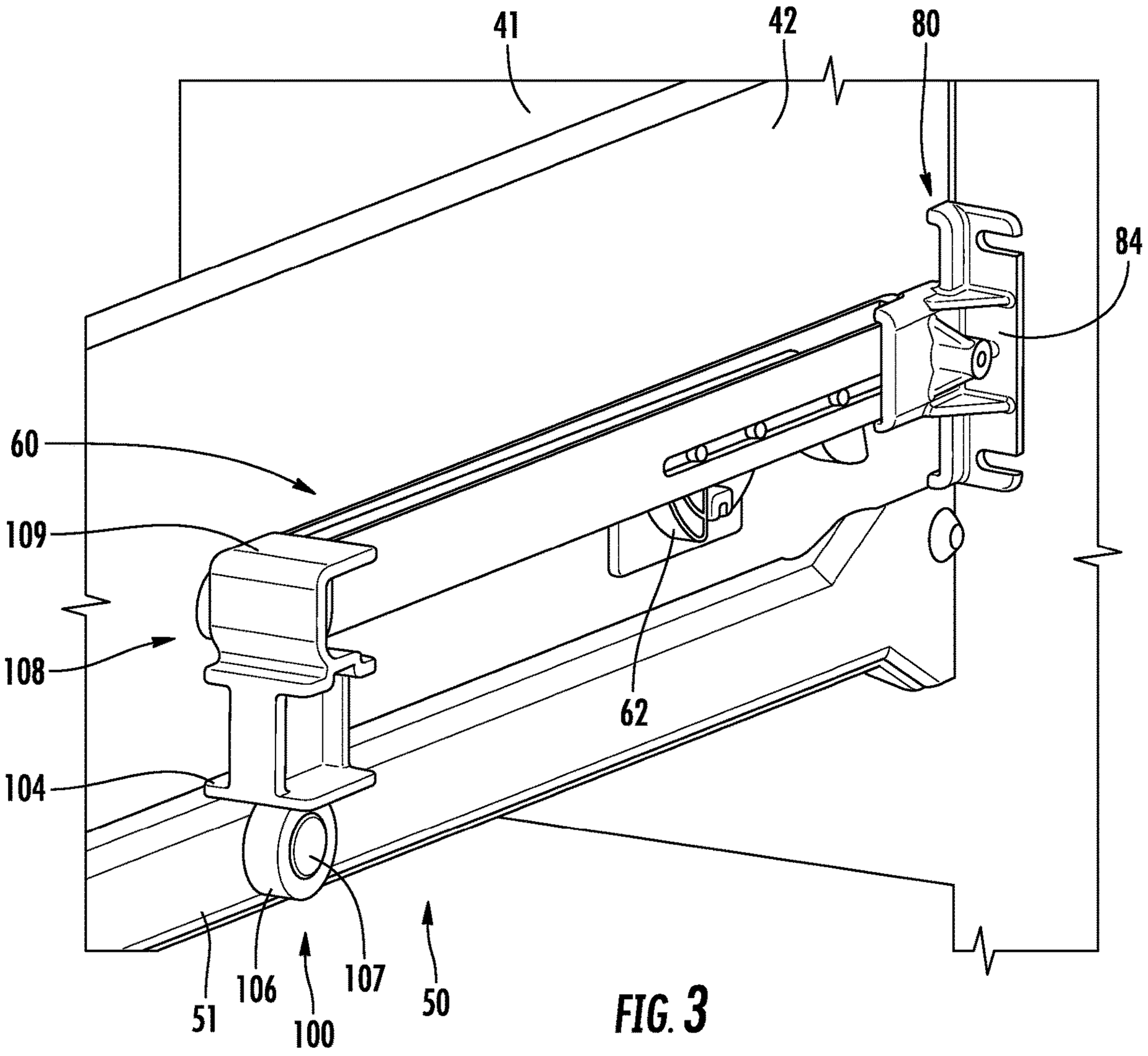

FIG. 3

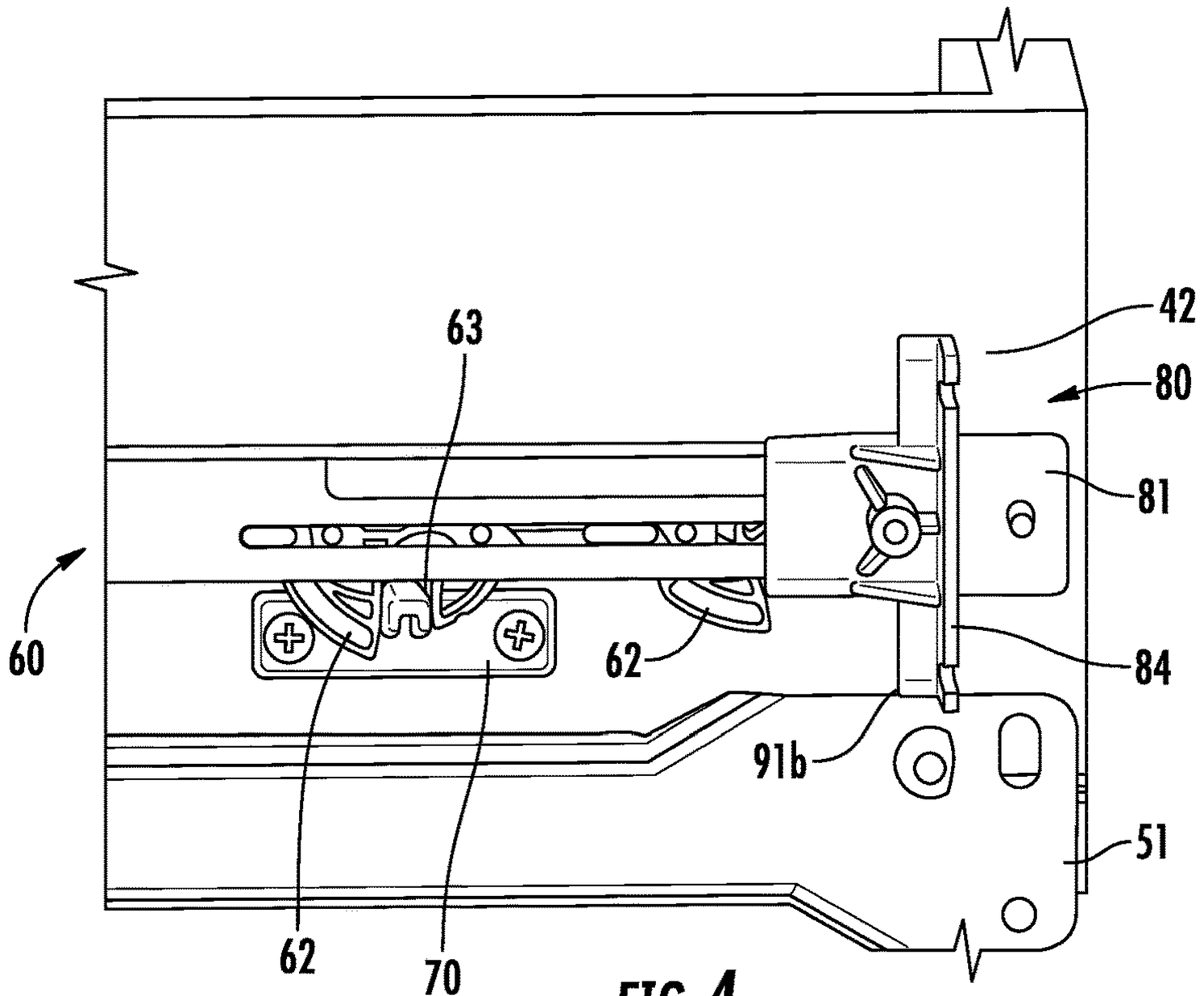
63
42
80
81
60
62
84
91b
51
62
70

FIG. 4

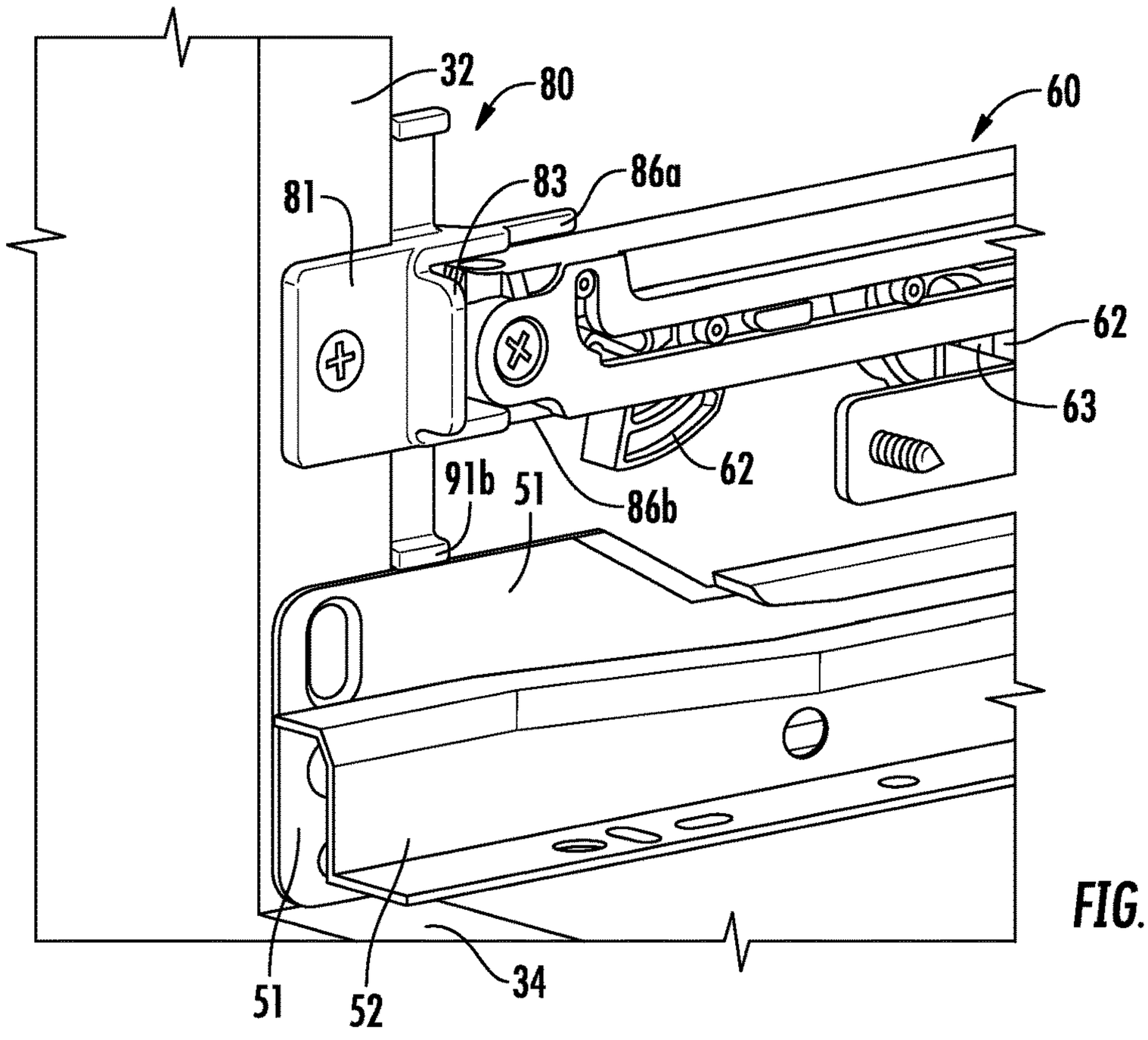
32
80
60
81
83
86a
62
63
91b
51
62
86b
51
52
34

FIG. 5

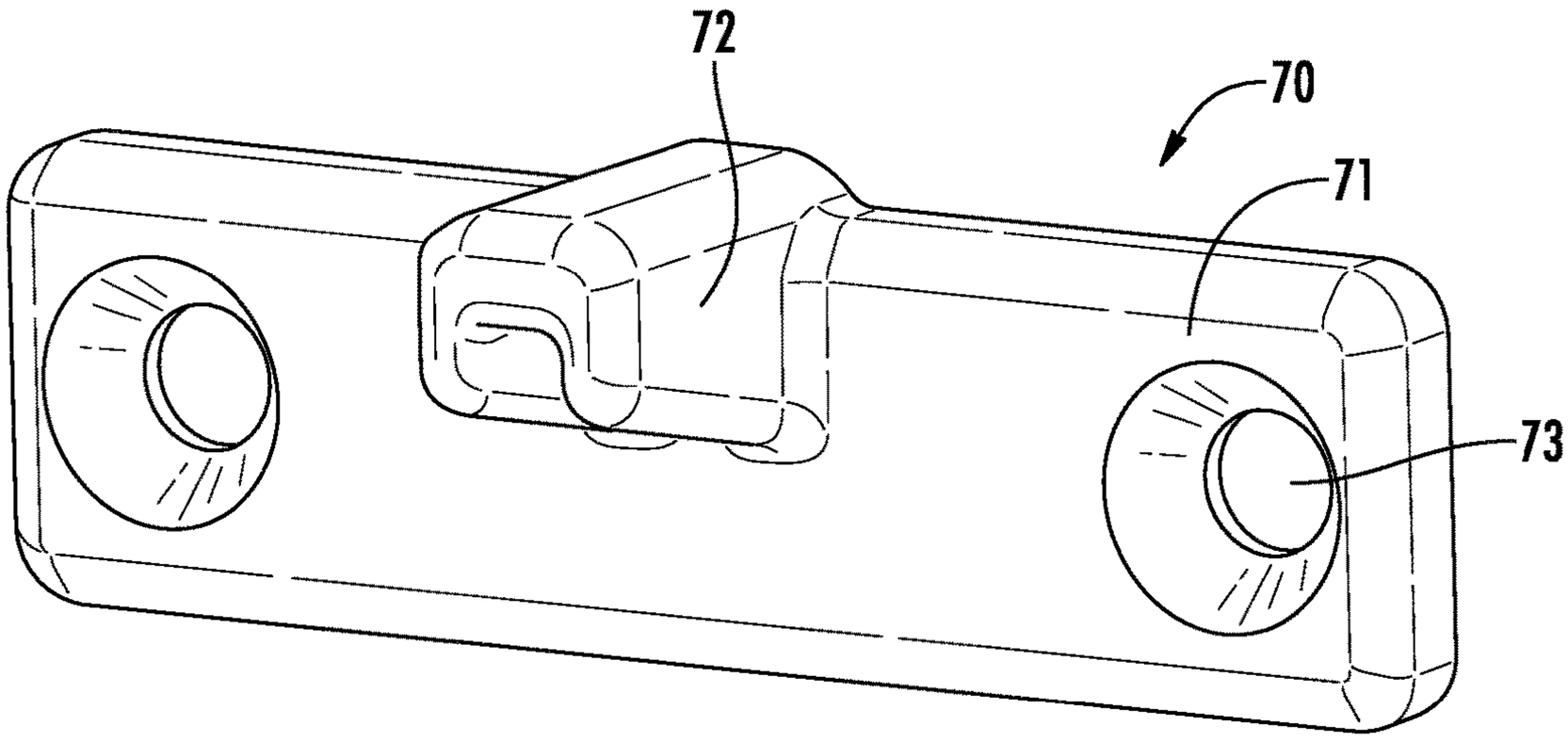

FIG. 6

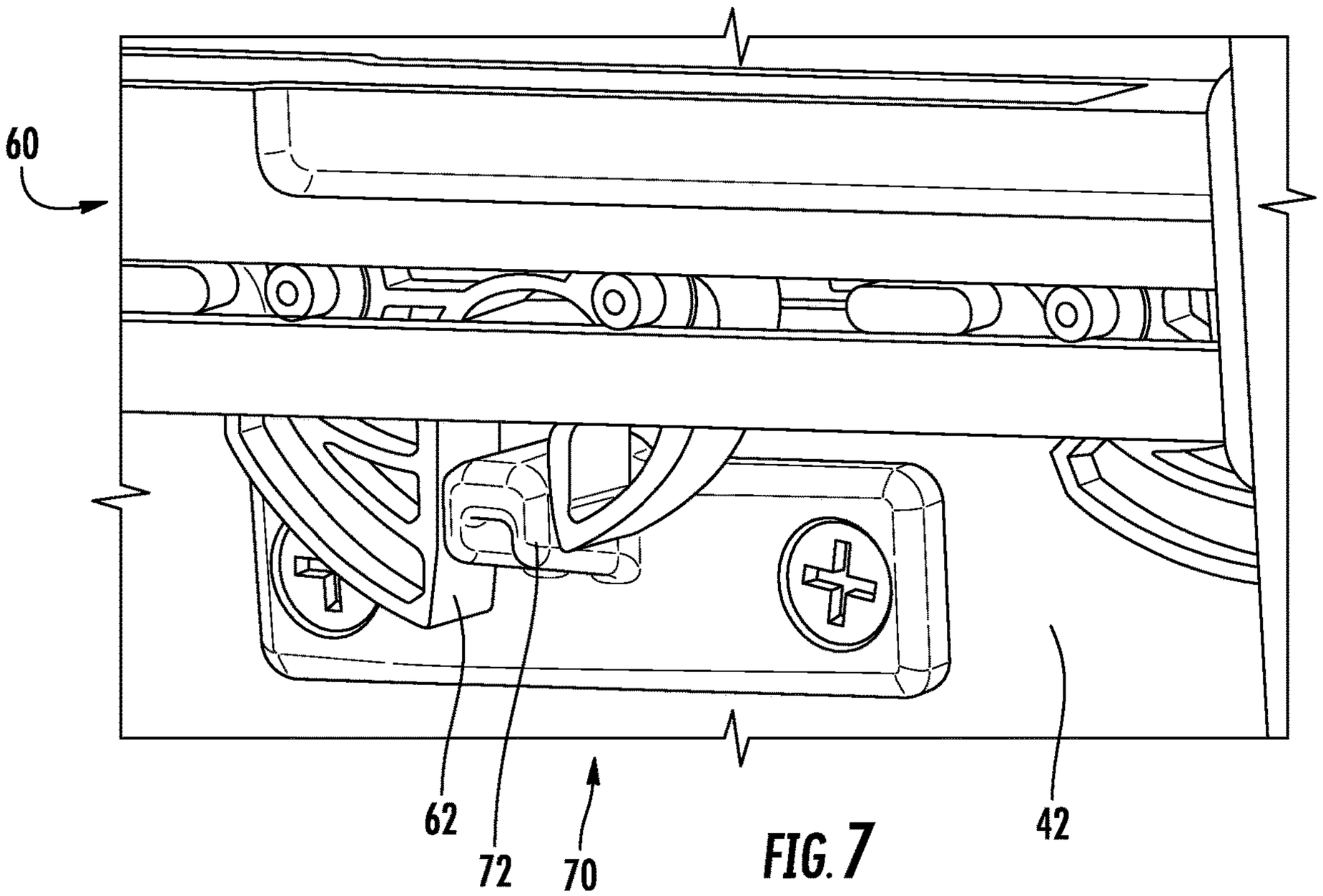

FIG. 7

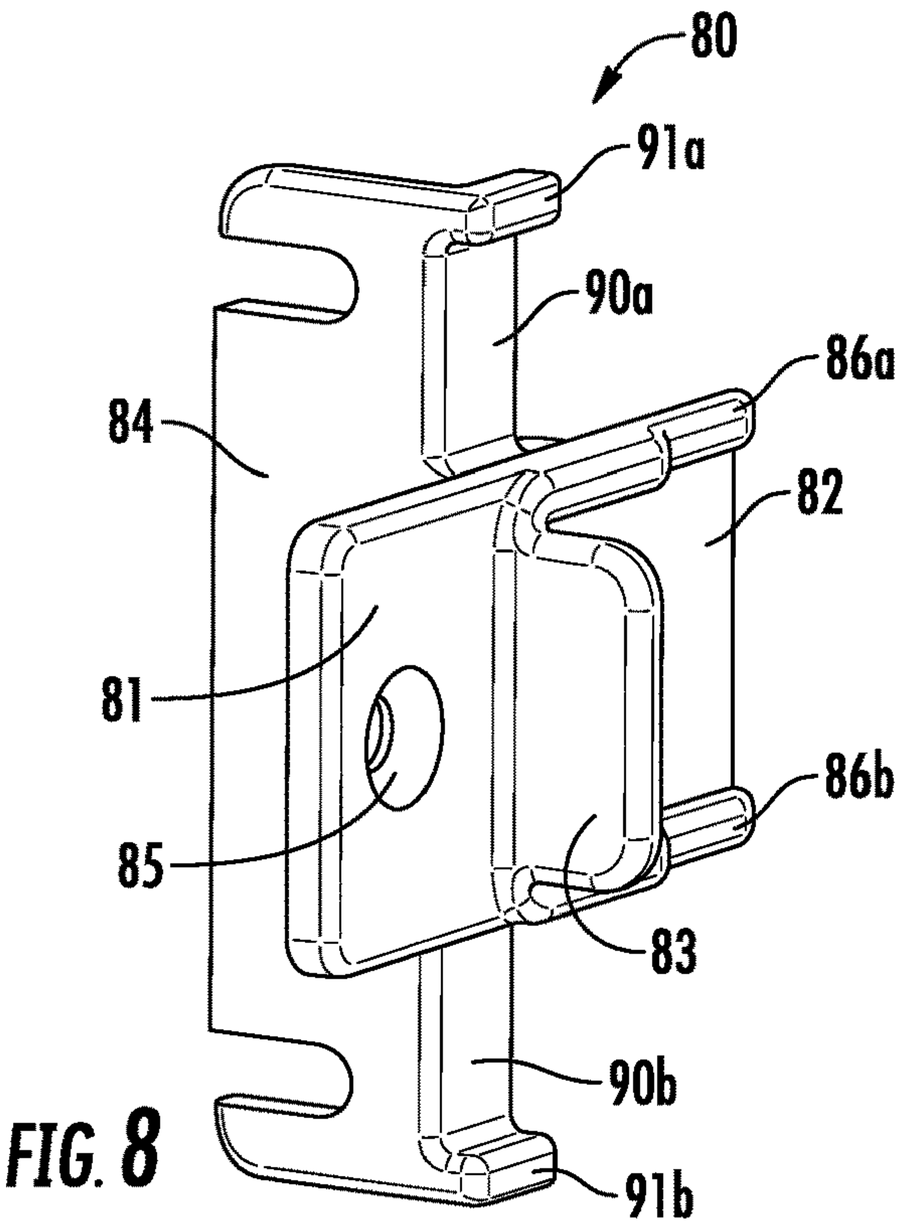

FIG. 8

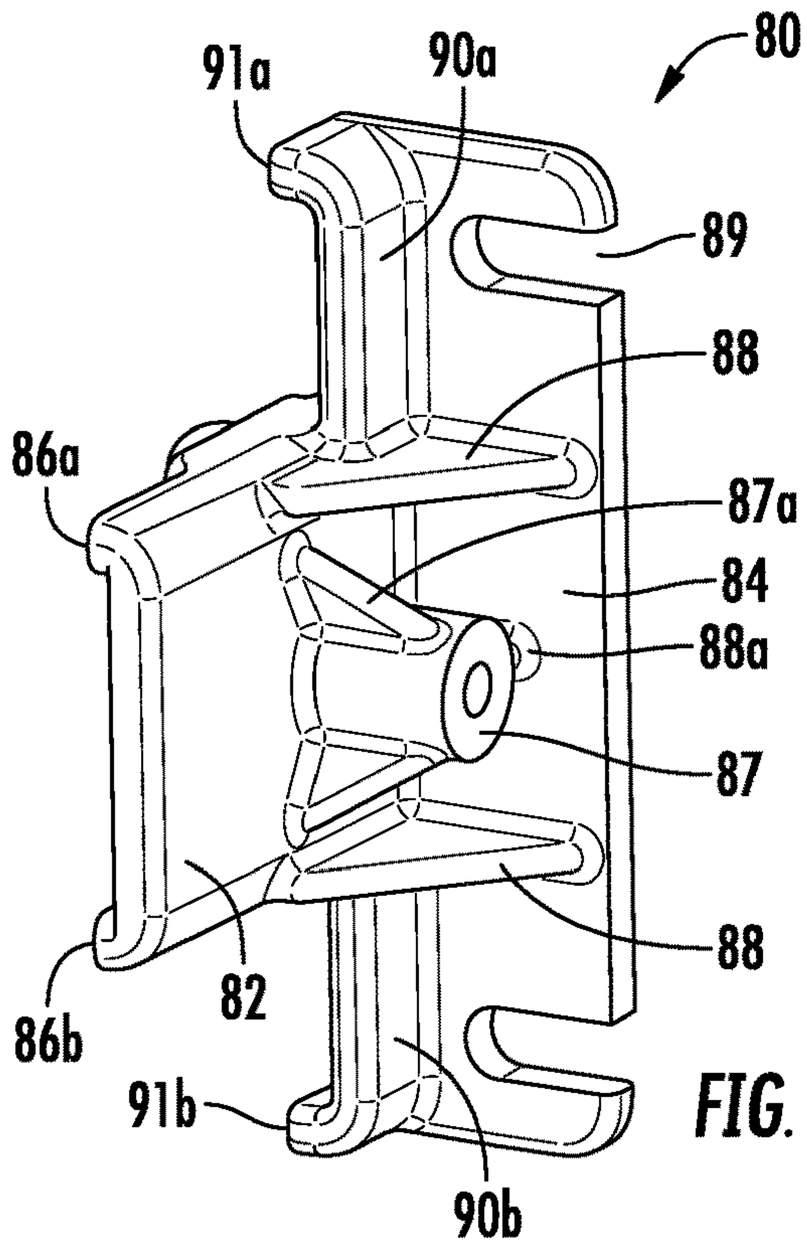

FIG. 9

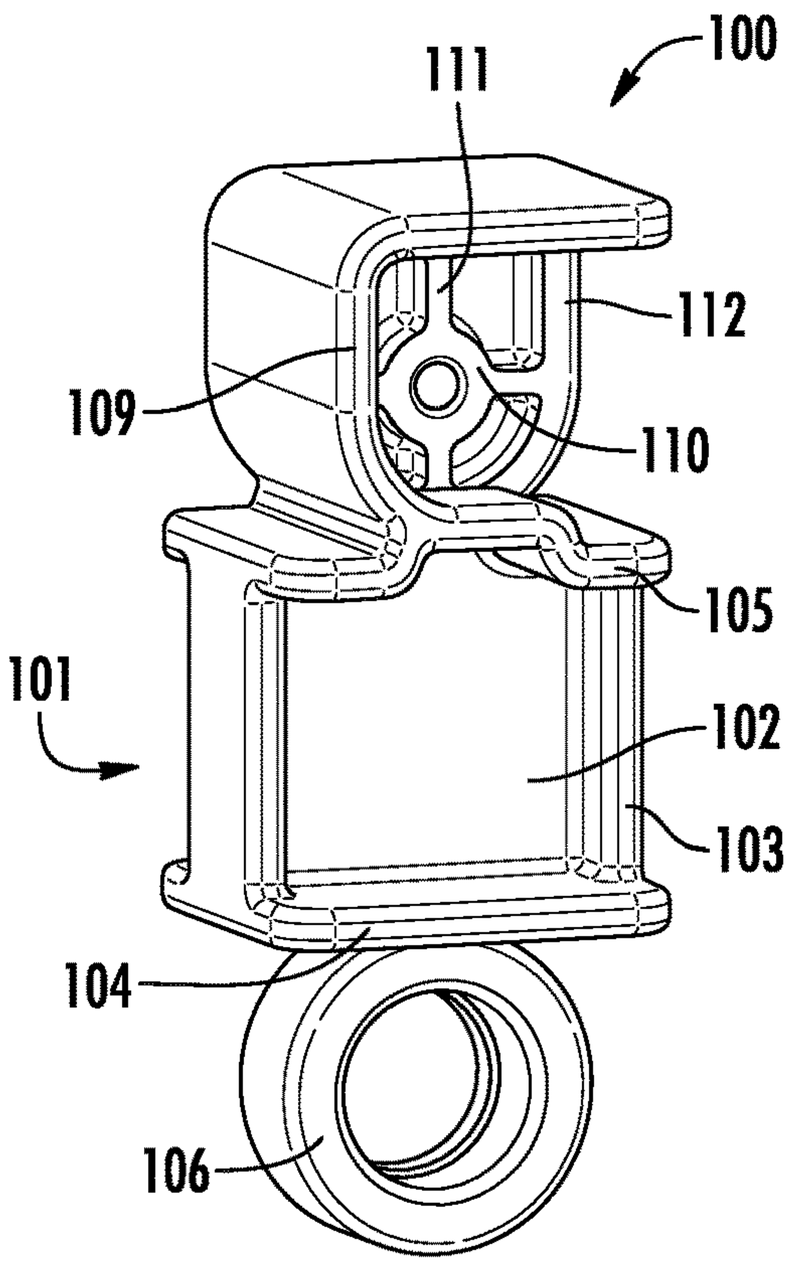

FIG. 10

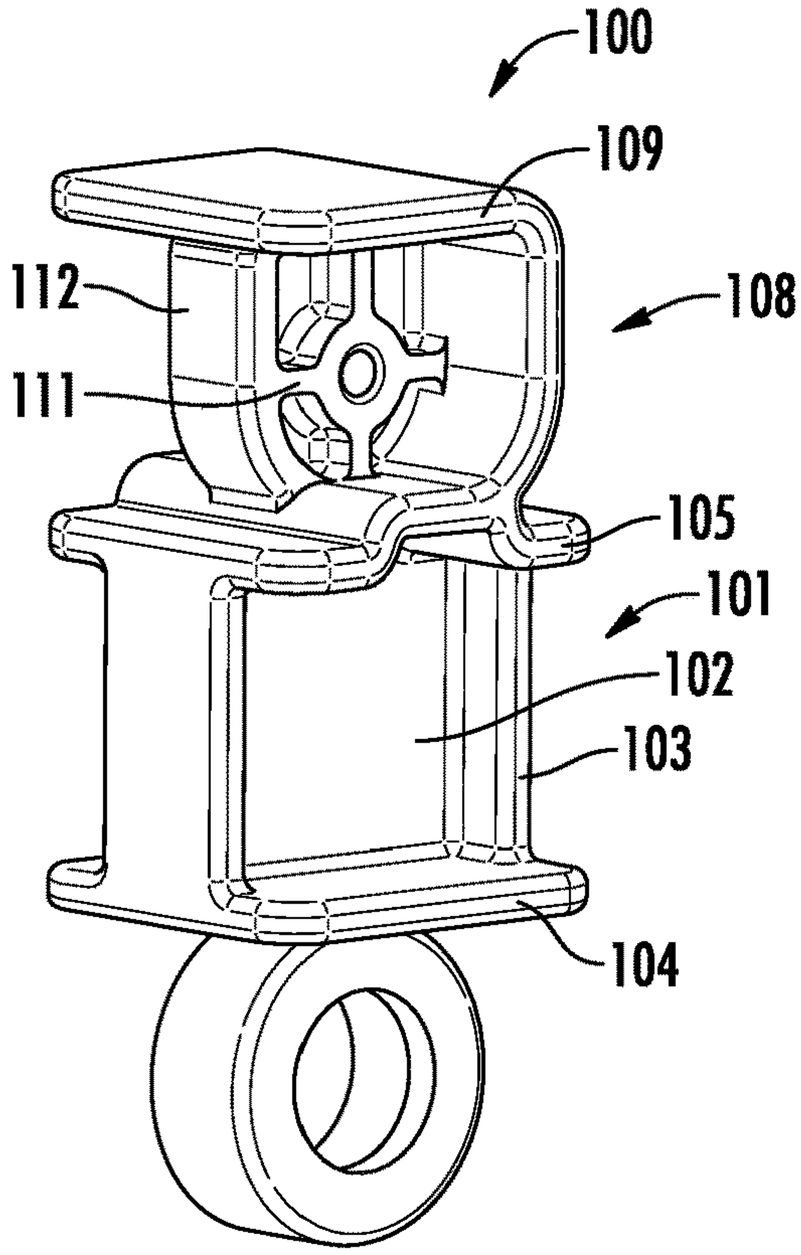

FIG. 11

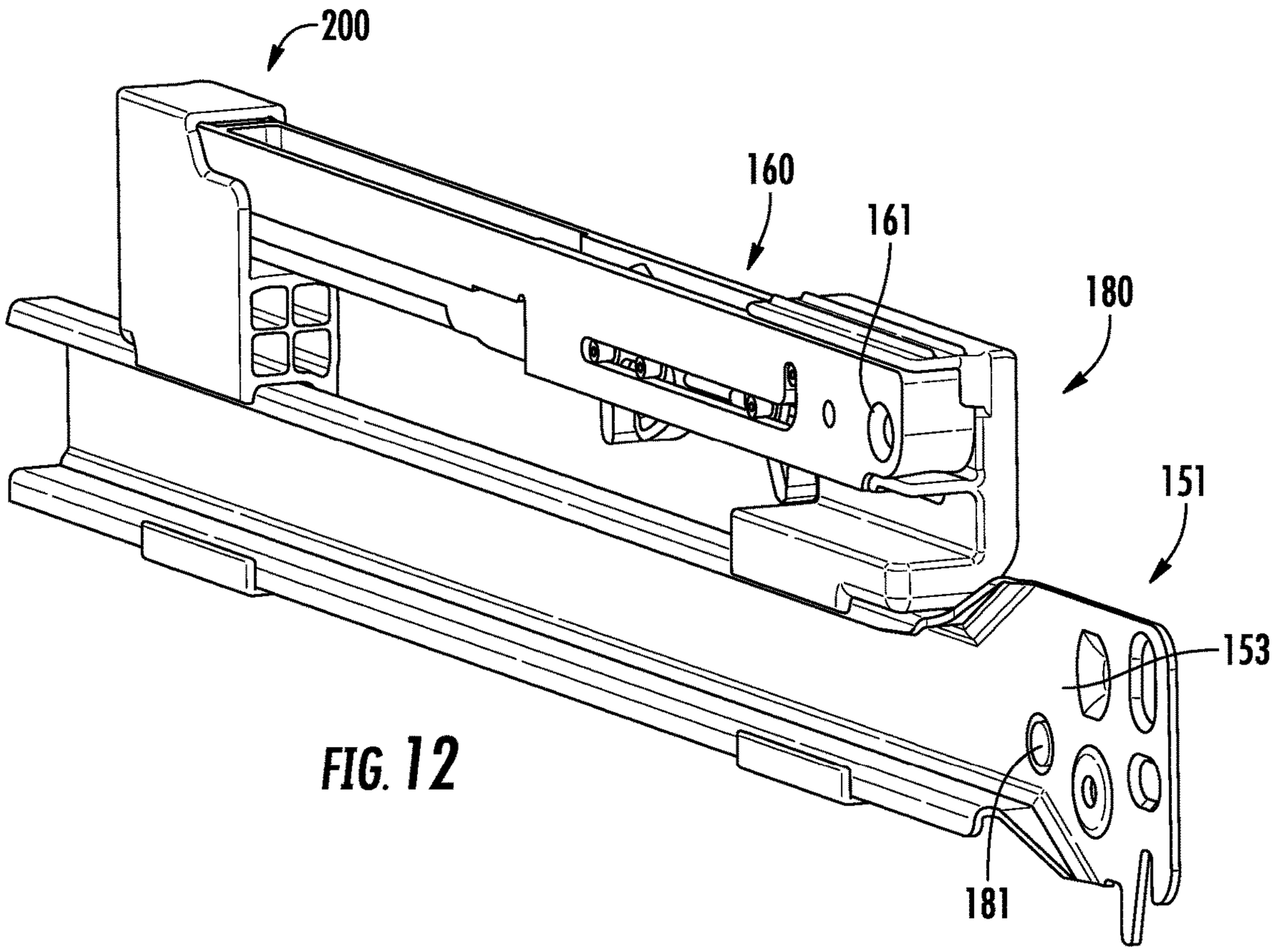

FIG. 12

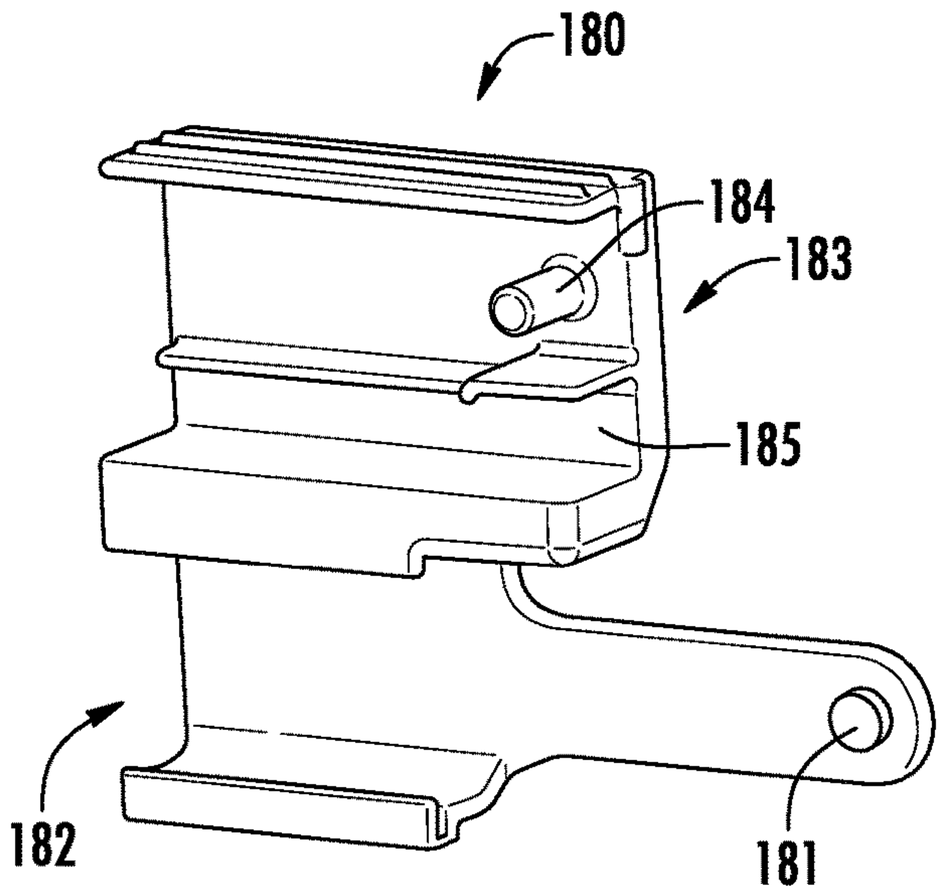

FIG. 13

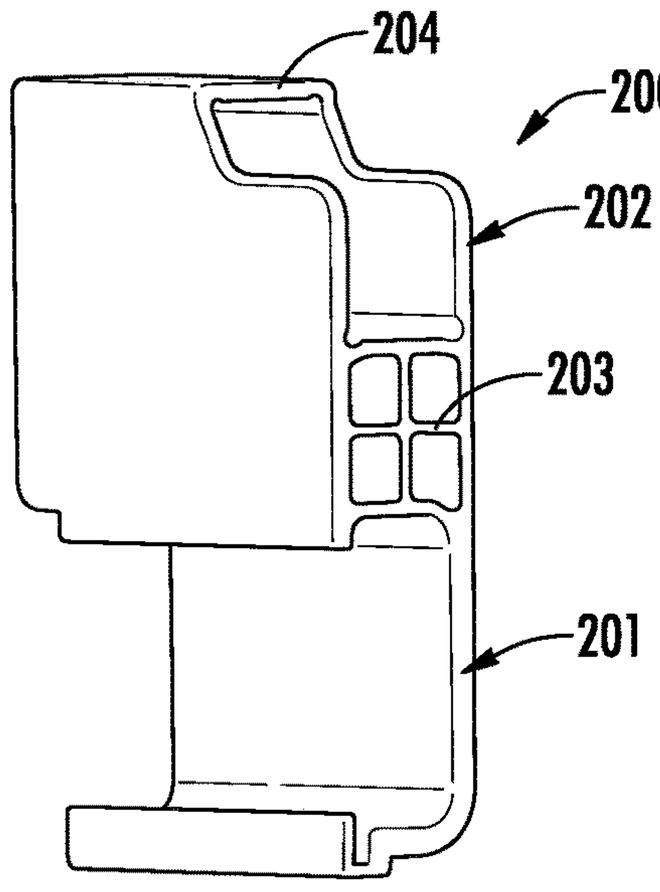

FIG. 14

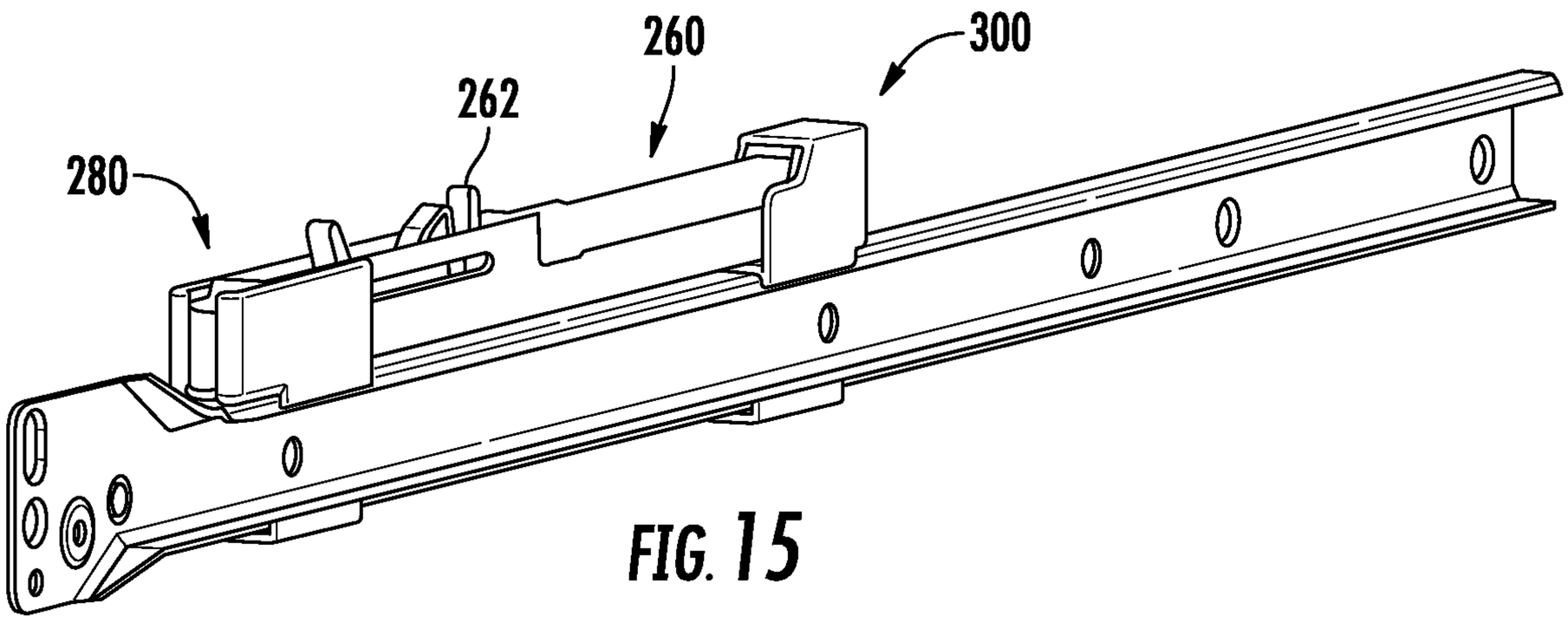

FIG. 15

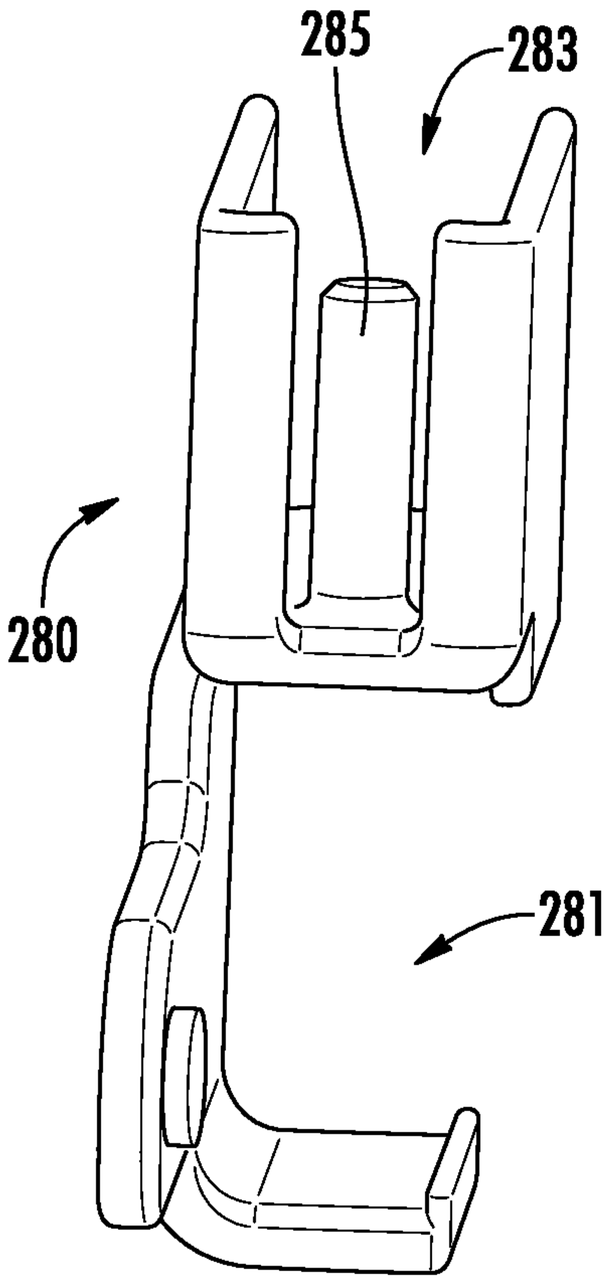

FIG. 16

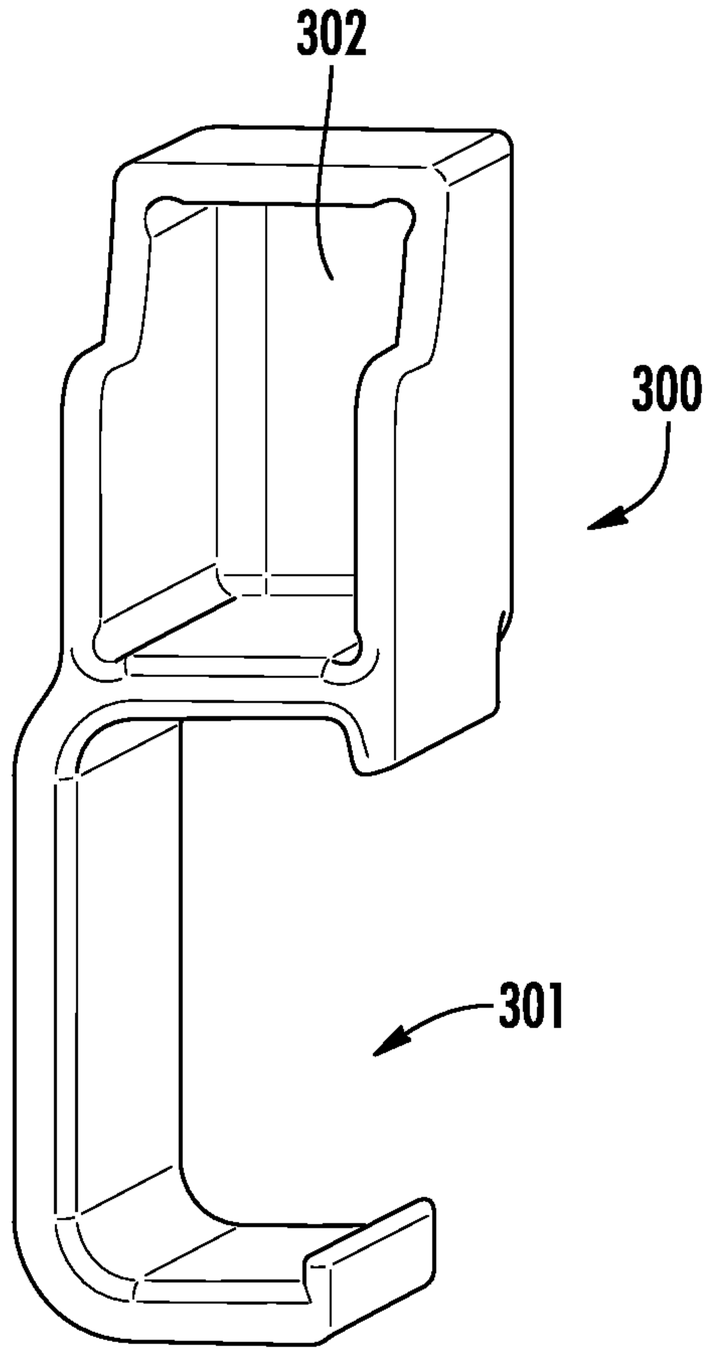

FIG. 17

HARDWARE ASSEMBLY FOR DRAWER SLIDE WITH DAMPENING MECHANISM

RELATED APPLICATION

The present application claims priority from and the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 63/143,086, filed Jan. 29, 2021, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed generally to furniture, and more particularly to cabinets with sliding drawers and trays.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Many cabinets, particularly those found in kitchens, include drawers for storing various items. Often, drawers are mounted to the cabinet with elongate drawer slides that are fixed to the drawer. Each drawer slide has a slide member fixed to the drawer that slidably engages a stationary member that is fixed to the walls of the cabinet (often the slide member, the stationary member, or both include a small wheel that facilitates sliding motion). Some of such cabinets include multiple drawers, which can be disposed in vertically stacked fashion, side-by-side fashion, or both.

Some drawers have relatively simple drawer slides that are mounted on the sides of the drawer. These are often coated with epoxy (and hence are sometimes known as "epoxy drawer slides"). In some embodiments, drawers mounted with epoxy drawer slides may also employ dampening mechanisms (also known as "soft close" mechanisms) that encourage the drawer to close automatically, but without slamming. One style of dampening mechanism includes a hook or "catch member" that projects above the remainder of the dampening mechanism and is positioned to engage a projection (sometimes referred to as the "activator") mounted to the drawer as the drawer slides between open and closed positions. Such a mechanism is available from the Zimmer Group US (Hickory, North Carolina).

One issue that can arise with some dampening mechanisms is the inadvertent disengagement of the drawer from the dampening mechanism. This can occur when the drawer is raised during opening; the hook on the dampening mechanism can become dislodged from the activator on the drawer, which can prevent the drawer from closing completely. Thus, it may be desirable to provide improved components that expand on this mounting technique.

SUMMARY

As a first aspect, embodiments of the invention are directed to an assembly to be mounted on a drawer slide to provide dampening to a drawer for an enclosure, wherein the enclosure includes a front wall having a cutout area with merging lower and side edges, and the drawer slide includes a stationary member mounted to the enclosure and a sliding member attached to the drawer. The assembly comprises: a dampening mechanism having front and rear ends, the dampening mechanism configured to prevent slamming of the drawer during closing and to maintain the drawer in a closed position, the dampening mechanism having a hook that engages an activator mounted on the drawer; a front mounting bracket attached to the front end of the dampening mechanism, the front mounting bracket configured to mount to and engage the side edge of the cabinet and the stationary member of the drawer slide; and a rear mounting bracket attached to the dampening mechanism rearwardly of the front mounting bracket, the rear mounting bracket configured to mount to and engage the stationary member of the drawer slide.

As a second aspect, embodiments of the invention are directed to a mounting bracket for mounting a dampening mechanism to a stationary member of a drawer slide comprising: front, rear, inward and outward panels, wherein the front and rear panels are generally parallel, and the inward and outward panels are generally parallel to each other and generally perpendicular to the front and rear panels; and a first vertical wall extending rearwardly from the outward panel, the first vertical wall including a lower stop configured to engage the stationary member of the drawer slide.

As a third aspect, embodiments of the invention are directed to a mounting bracket for mounting a dampening mechanism to a stationary member of a drawer slide comprising: a main body with a lower shelf; a lower attachment portion extending downwardly from the lower shelf, the lower attachment portion configured to attach to the stationary member, and the lower shelf configured to engage an upper edge of the stationary member; and an upper mounting portion extending upwardly from the main body, the upper mounting portion configured to receive and attach to a rear end of the dampening mechanism.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

FIG. **1** is an interior, partial front perspective view of a cabinet with a drawer mounted therein with side-mounted drawer slides and a dampening mechanism according to embodiments of the invention.

FIG. **2** is an exterior partial rear perspective view of the cabinet of FIG. **1**.

FIG. **3** is an enlarged rear perspective view of the front portions of the cabinet front wall, drawer and mounting hardware of the cabinet of FIG. **1**.

FIG. **4** is a side view of the drawer and hardware of the cabinet of FIG. **1** with the cabinet removed for clarity.

FIG. **5** is an interior, partial front perspective view of the drawer slide, dampening mechanism and front mourning backet of the cabinet of FIG. **1**.

FIG. **6** is a front perspective view of the activator of the hardware for the cabinet of FIG. **1**.

FIG. **7** is a perspective view of the activator of FIG. **6** engaged with the hook of the dampening mechanism of the cabinet of FIG. **1**.

FIG. **8** is a front perspective view of front mounting bracket of the mounting hardware for the cabinet of FIG. **1**.

FIG. **9** is a rear perspective view of the front mounting bracket of FIG. **8**.

FIG. **10** is a rear perspective view of the rear mounting bracket of the mounting hardware for the cabinet of FIG. **1**.

FIG. **11** is a front perspective view of the rear mounting bracket of FIG. **10**.

FIG. **12** is an interior front perspective view of a dampening mechanism, a front mounting bracket and a rear mounting bracket according to alternative embodiments of the invention.

FIG. **13** is a front perspective view of the front mounting bracket of FIG. **12**.

FIG. **14** is a rear perspective view of the rear mounting bracket of FIG. **12**.

FIG. **15** is an interior front perspective view of a dampening mechanism, a front mounting bracket and a rear mounting bracket according to further embodiments of the invention.

FIG. **16** is a front perspective view of the front mounting bracket of FIG. **15**.

FIG. **17** is a front perspective view of the rear mounting bracket of FIG. **15**.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The present invention will now be described more fully hereinafter, in which preferred embodiments of the invention are shown. This invention may, however, be embodied in different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein. Rather, these embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey the scope of the invention to those skilled in the art. In the drawings, like numbers refer to like elements throughout. Thicknesses and dimensions of some components may be exaggerated for clarity.

Unless otherwise defined, all terms (including technical and scientific terms) used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this invention belongs. It will be further understood that terms, such as those defined in commonly used dictionaries, should be interpreted as having a meaning that is consistent with their meaning in the context of the relevant art and will not be interpreted in an idealized or overly formal sense unless expressly so defined herein.

The terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only and is not intended to be limiting of the invention. As used herein, the singular forms "a", "an" and "the" are intended to include the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. It will be further understood that the terms "comprises" and/or "comprising," when used in this specification, specify the presence of stated features, integers, steps, operations, elements, and/or components, but do not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, integers, steps, operations, elements, components, and/or groups thereof. As used herein the expression "and/or" includes any and all combinations of one or more of the associated listed items.

In addition, spatially relative terms, such as "under", "below", "lower", "over", "upper" and the like, may be used herein for ease of description to describe one element or feature's relationship to another element(s) or feature(s) as illustrated in the figures. It will be understood that the spatially relative terms are intended to encompass different orientations of the device in use or operation in addition to the orientation depicted in the figures. For example, if the device in the figures is turned over, elements described as "under" or "beneath" other elements or features would then be oriented "over" the other elements or features. Thus, the exemplary term "under" can encompass both an orientation of over and under. The device may be otherwise oriented (rotated 90 degrees or at other orientations) and the spatially relative descriptors used herein interpreted accordingly.

Well-known functions or constructions may not be described in detail for brevity and/or clarity.

Referring now to FIG. **1**, a cabinet, designated broadly at **20**, is illustrated in FIG. **1**. The cabinet **20** includes an enclosure **21** having a rear wall **22**, side walls **24** mounted perpendicular thereto (only one side wall **24** is shown herein), and a front wall **28** mounted generally parallel to the rear wall **22**. The front wall **28** has a cut-out area **33** that

receives the front face of a drawer **40**. The cut-out area is lined by a side edge **32** and a lower edge **34** that are disposed generally perpendicular to each other. Typically the enclosure **21** is formed of wood, but other materials known to be suitable for cabinets may also be employed.

Those skilled in this art will recognize that the configuration of the enclosure **21** can vary and still be encompassed by the present invention. For example, the enclosure **21** may have two or more cut-out areas **33** for multiple drawers **40**.

As seen in FIGS. **1-4**, the drawer **40** has a front wall **41**, two side walls **42** (only one side wall **42** is shown herein), a rear wall (not shown), and a floor **43**. The front wall **41** of the drawer **40** fits within the cut-out area **33** when the drawer **40** is closed.

A drawer slide **50** is employed to mount the drawer **40** within the cabinet **20**. The drawer slide **50** includes an elongate stationary member **51** that is mounted to the rear wall **22** of the cabinet **20** and to the side edge **32** of the cut-out area **33** of the front wall **28**, with the lower edge of the stationary member **51** resting on the lower edge **34** of the cut-out area **33**. The drawer slide **50** also includes a sliding member **52** (FIG. **5**) that engages the stationary member **51** and slides relative thereto. The sliding member **52** is mounted to the outer surface and underside of the side wall **42** of the drawer **40**. The ability of the sliding member **52** to slide relative to the stationary member **51** enables the drawer **40** to slide between open and closed positions relative to the front wall **28** of the cabinet **20**.

Those skilled in this art will recognize that, although a particular style of drawer slide is shown herein, other drawer slide styles may be suitable for use in embodiments of the invention.

Referring to FIGS. **3-5**, a dampening mechanism **60** is mounted to the front wall **28** of the cabinet **40** laterally from the cut-out area **33** via a front mounting bracket **80** and is attached to the stationary member **51** of the drawer slide **50** via a rear mounting bracket **100**. The dampening mechanism **60** includes a hook **62** that protrudes from its lower surface. The hook **62** includes a slot **63**. The hook **62** interacts with the catch member **72** of an activator **70** mounted on the side wall **42** of the drawer **40** to provide "soft closing" capability to the drawer **40**. (It should be noted that the hook **62** of the dampening mechanism **60** is shown in both its forward and rear positions in FIGS. **2-5** and **7**, with the front portion of the hook **62** hidden within the front portion of the dampening mechanism **60** in the forward position). Details regarding the activator **70**, the rear mounting bracket **100** and the front mounting bracket **80** are provided below.

Referring to FIGS. **6** and **7**, the activator **70** includes a planar main body **71** with mounting holes **73** near each end. A catch member **72** extends from the upper central portion of the main body **71**. The catch member **72** is generally U-shaped in profile and is tapered slightly from its fixed end to its free end. The activator **70** is mounted to the side wall **42** of the drawer **40** via screws inserted through the mounting holes **73**.

Referring now to FIGS. **8** and **9**, the front mounting bracket **80** includes interconnected front, back, inward and outward panels **81**, **82**, **83**, **84**. The front and rear panels **81**, **82** are slightly offset laterally, with the front panel **81** being positioned slightly inward of the rear panel **82**. A mounting hole **85** is present in the front panel **81** for mounting of the front mounting bracket **80** to the side edge **32** of the cutout area **33**. Upper and lower flanges **86***a*, **86***b* extend inwardly from the top and bottom edges of the rear panel **82** (the flanges **86***a*, **86***b* can help to prevent the dampening mechanism **60** from rotating). A boss **87** projects outwardly from

the rear panel **82** (supported by gussets **87***a*) for attachment of the front mounting bracket **80** to the front end of the dampening mechanism **60**. The inward panel **83** extends inwardly from the intersection of the front and rear panels **81**, **82**; the outward panel **84** extends outwardly from the same intersection, such that the inward and outward panels **83**, **84** are generally coplanar. The outward panel **84** shares two triangular gussets **88** with the rear panel **82**, and also shares a rib **88***a* that extends between the boss **87** and the outward panel **84**. The outward panel **84** also has two open ended slots **89** on its outer edge. Upper and lower vertical walls **90***a*, **90***b* extend upwardly and downwardly, respectively, from the gussets **88** to the upper and lower edges of the outward panel **84**. A respective stop **91***a*, **91***b* extends inwardly from each of the upper and lower vertical walls **90***a*, **90***b*.

Referring now to FIGS. **10** and **11**, the rear mounting bracket **100** has a main body **101** that includes a panel **102**, side walls **103**, a lower shelf **104** and an upper shelf **105**; each of the side walls **103** and shelves **104**, **105** extend both inwardly and outwardly from the panel **102**. A circular magnet receptacle **106** serves as the lower mounting portion and extends downwardly from the lower shelf **105** and contains a magnet **107** therein (the magnet **107** is absent from FIGS. **10** and **11**, but is visible in FIG. **3**). A mounting portion **108** extends upwardly from the upper shelf **105**. The mounting portion **108** is surrounded on three sides (top, bottom, and rear) by a rim **109**. A boss **110** is located within the rim **109** for mounting of the rear mounting bracket **100** to the rear end of the dampening mechanism **60**; the boss **110** is supported by ribs **111**. A front wall **112** is narrower than the rim **109** and extends between the upper and lower runs of the rim **109**.

As can be seen in FIGS. **3-5**, the stationary member **51** of the drawer slide **50** is mounted via screws to the side edge **32** of the cutout area **33** of the front wall **28** and rests on the lower edge **34**. The stationary member **51** is also mounted to the rear wall **22**. The sliding member **52** of the drawer slide **50** is mounted to the side wall **42** of the drawer **40**. Sliding movement of the slide member **52** relative to the stationary member **51** enables the drawer **40** to slide in and out of the cabinet **20**.

The activator **70** is mounted to the outer surface of the side wall **42** of the drawer **40** via screws inserted into the mounting holes **73** (see FIG. **6**). The activator **70** is positioned so that, when the drawer **40** is closed, the catch member **72** of the activator **70** is positioned in the slot **63** of the hook **62** of the dampening mechanism **60**.

Best seen in FIGS. **4** and **5**, the front mounting bracket **80** is employed to mount the front end of the dampening mechanism **60** to the cabinet **20**. More specifically, the front end of the dampening mechanism **60** is received within the "pocket" formed by the rear panel **82** and the upper and lower flanges **86***a*, **86***b*. A screw extends through a hole in the dampening mechanism **60** and into the boss **87** to fix these components together. The outward panel **84** overlies the rear surface of the front wall **28** of the cabinet **20** and may be attached thereto with screws inserted into the slots **89**. The lower stop **91***b* rests on the upper surface of the stationary member **51** of the drawer slide **50**. The front panel **81** overlies the side edge **32** of the cutout area **33** and is fixed thereto with a screw inserted into the mounting hole **85**. The front end of the dampening mechanism **60** abuts the inward panel **83**.

Best seen in FIG. **3**, the rear mounting bracket **100** is employed to attach the rear end of the dampening mechanism **60** to the stationary member **51** of the drawer slide **50**. More specifically, the rear end of the dampening member **60** fits within the rim **109** of the mounting portion **108**, with the inward edge of the front wall **112** abutting the dampening mechanism **60**, and a screw is inserted into the boss **110** to fix the components together. The magnet receptacle **106** is positioned on the outer surface of the stationary member **51**, with the magnet **107** serving to attach the rear mounting bracket **100** to the stationary member **51**. The lower shelf **104** rests on the upper surface of the stationary member **51**.

The relative positioning of the various components can help to ensure proper alignment of the drawer **40** and dampening mechanism **60**. The dampening mechanism **60**, the front mounting bracket **80**, and the rear mounting bracket **100** can be pre-assembled as provided as a unitary assembly. The stationary member **51** of the drawer slide **50** can be mounted to the rear wall **22** of the cabinet **20** and to the side edge **32** of the cutout area **33** of the front wall **28**. The sliding member **52** of the drawer slide **50** is attached to the drawer **40** as described above. The assembly of the dampening mechanism **60**, the front mounting bracket **80** and the rear mounting bracket **100** can then be attached quickly and easily to the stationary member **51** and the cutout area **33**. The front panel **81** provides lateral alignment relative to the side edge **32**, the outward panel **84** provides "fore-and-aft" alignment relative to the front wall **28**, and the lower stop **91***b* provides vertical alignment relative to the stationary member **51**. The rear mounting bracket **100** (via the lower shelf **105**) maintains the rear end of the dampening mechanism **60** at the proper height relative to the stationary member **51** while being very simple to attach to the stationary member **51**. The activator **70** can also be easily attached in the correct position on the drawer **40** via pre-drilled holes, a template or the like.

In addition, because the dampening mechanism **60** is oriented with the hook **62** extending downwardly, it is unlikely that the dampening mechanism **60** will inadvertently disengage from the catch member **70** (and therefore from the drawer **40**). As noted above, such disengagement may occur in prior cabinets if the drawer **40** is lifted during opening. However, in the arrangement shown in FIGS. **1-7**, lifting of the drawer **40** only causes the catch member **72** of the activator **70** to rise more deeply into the slot **63**, such that the drawer **40** and dampening mechanism **60** do not disengage.

It is also notable that any or all of the activator **70**, the front mounting bracket **80** and the rear mounting bracket **100** may be employed on both sides of the drawer **40**. The activator **70** is clearly mirror-symmetric and can be used on either side. The rear mounting bracket **100** has a plane of mirror symmetry that passes through and is coplanar with the panel **102** of the main body **101**, so it can also be used on either side of the drawer **40**. The front mounting bracket **80** has a horizontal plane of mirror symmetry that passes through the boss **87**, so that the front mounting bracket **80** can be inverted, with the upper stop **91***a* becoming the lower stop **91***b* and vice versa, to enable the front mounting bracket **80** to serve on the opposite side of the drawer **40**. The dual use of these components can reduce tooling and manufacturing costs, particularly if these components are formed by injection molding of a polymeric material.

Those of skill in this art will appreciate that the illustrated and described arrangement may take other forms. For example, the front mounting bracket **80** may be attached to the cabinet **20** via other means, such as staples, nails, bolts and the like. The activator **70** may also be attached to the drawer **40** by other means, such as staples, nails, bolts and the like. Either of these components may include one or

more pins, posts, or other protrusions that are received in their mating surfaces to permit proper positioning and alignment. The rear mounting bracket **100** may also be attached to the dampening mechanism by another technique besides a magnet (e.g., a latch, a hook, or the like). Other configurations may also be possible. It should also be noted that, for some drawers only one dampening mechanism **60** may be employed, whereas on other drawers (typically larger drawers), a dampening mechanism **50** may be employed on each side of the drawer to add further "soft-closing" capability.

FIGS. **12-14** illustrate another embodiment that utilizes a different drawer slide (represented by the stationary member **151**), front mounting bracket **180** and rear mounting bracket **200**. The stationary member **151** is mounted to the cabinet in a manner similar to that described above. The front mounting bracket **180** includes a lower receptacle **182** that receives and clamps onto the front end of the stationary member **151**. A nub **181** fits within a hole **153** in the stationary member **151** for alignment. The front mounting bracket **180** also includes an upper receptacle **183** that receives and clamps onto the front end of the dampening mechanism **160**. A post **184** is received in a hole **151** on the dampening mechanism **160** for fixing the components together and for alignment. A channel **185** is present between the lower and upper receptacles **182**, **183** that provides a path for the catch member of the activator (not shown herein) to travel in during sliding movement of the drawer.

The rear mounting bracket **200** includes a lower receptacle **201** that receives and clamps onto the stationary member **151**. An upper receptacle **202** is present above the lower receptacle **201**, with spacing ribs **203** positioned therebetween to locate the upper receptacle **202** at the correct height above the stationary member **151** and a ceiling **204** to capture the dampening mechanism **160** from above. The upper receptacle **202** is closed at its rear end.

A variation of the assembly of FIGS. **12-14** is shown in FIGS. **15-17**. In this embodiment, the dampening mechanism **260** is oriented so that the hook **262** extends upwardly (rather than downwardly as in the dampening mechanisms **60**, **160**). The front mounting bracket **280** includes lower and upper receptacles **281**, **283**, but does not have a channel between the receptacles **281**, **283**. A post **285** extends upwardly from the floor of the upper receptacle **283** to engage a hole in the lower surface of the dampening mechanism **260**. The rear mounting bracket **300** lacks the spacing ribs of the rear mounting bracket **200**, such that the upper receptacle **302** is directly above the lower receptacle **301**. This arrangement enables the use of the dampening mechanism **260** which, as described, has an upwardly-extending hook **262** (the catch member of the activator mounted to the drawer, which is not shown herein, would be mounted higher on the wall of the drawer to be located for proper engagement with the hook **262**).

Those skilled in this art will appreciate that the embodiments shown in FIGS. **12-17** are not "universal", in that left- and right-handed brackets are used therein, which may increase tooling and labor costs.

The foregoing is illustrative of the present invention and is not to be construed as limiting thereof. Although exemplary embodiments of this invention have been described, those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that many modifications are possible in the exemplary embodiments without materially departing from the novel teachings and advantages of this invention. Accordingly, all such modifications are intended to be included within the scope of this invention as defined in the claims. The invention is defined by the following claims, with equivalents of the claims to be included therein.

That which is claimed is:

1. An assembly to be mounted on a drawer slide to provide dampening to a drawer for an enclosure, the enclosure including a front wall having a cutout area with merging lower and side edges, the drawer slide including a stationary member mounted to the enclosure and a sliding member attached to the drawer, the assembly comprising:

a dampening mechanism having front and rear ends, the dampening mechanism configured to prevent slamming of the drawer during closing and to maintain the drawer in a closed position, the dampening mechanism having a hook that engages an activator mounted on the drawer;

a front mounting bracket attached to the front end of the dampening mechanism, the front mounting bracket configured to mount to and engage the side edge of the enclosure and the stationary member of the drawer slide; and

a rear mounting bracket attached to the dampening mechanism rearwardly of the front mounting bracket, the rear mounting bracket configured to mount to and engage the stationary member of the drawer slide.

2. The assembly defined in claim **1**, wherein the front mounting bracket is configured to engage an upper edge of the stationary member.

3. The assembly defined in claim **2**, wherein the rear mounting bracket is configured to engage an upper edge of the stationary member.

4. The assembly defined in claim **3**, wherein the hook of the dampening mechanism extends downwardly.

5. The assembly defined in claim **1**, wherein the rear mounting bracket includes a magnet employed to attach the rear mounting member to the stationary member.

6. The assembly defined in claim **2**, wherein the front mounting bracket engages a rear surface of the front wall of the enclosure.

7. The assembly defined in claim **1**, in combination with the drawer slide.

8. The assembly defined in claim **7**, in combination with the enclosure.

9. The assembly defined in claim **8**, in combination with the drawer.

10. A mounting bracket for mounting a dampening mechanism to a stationary member of a drawer slide, comprising:

front, rear, inward and outward panels, wherein the front and rear panels are generally parallel, and the inward and outward panels are generally parallel to each other and generally perpendicular to the front and rear panels; and

a first vertical wall extending rearwardly from the outward panel, the first vertical wall including a lower stop configured to engage the stationary member of the drawer slide;

further comprising upper and lower flanges extending inwardly from the rear panel, the upper and lower flanges configured to capture the dampening mechanism.

11. The mounting bracket defined in claim **10**, further comprising a second vertical wall extending rearwardly from the outward panel in a direction opposite the first vertical wall.

12. The mounting bracket defined in claim **10**, further comprising a boss extending outwardly from the rear panel.

13. The mounting bracket defined in claim 10, further comprising a mounting hole in the front panel.

14. The mounting bracket defined in claim 10, wherein a front surface of the inward panel and front surface of the outward panel are substantially coplanar.

15. The mounting bracket defined in claim 10, wherein the mounting bracket has a horizontal plane of mirror symmetry that divides each of the front panel, the rear panel, the inward panel and the outward panel into identical mirror images.

16. A mounting bracket for mounting a dampening mechanism to a stationary member of a drawer slide, comprising:

a main body with a lower shelf;

a lower attachment portion extending downwardly from the lower shelf, the lower attachment portion configured to attach to the stationary member, and the lower shelf configured to engage an upper edge of the stationary member; and

an upper mounting portion extending upwardly from the main body, the upper mounting portion configured to receive and attach to a rear end of the dampening mechanism

wherein the lower attachment portion includes a magnet receptacle and a magnet mounted therein.

17. The mounting bracket defined in claim 16, wherein the upper mounting portion includes a boss that extends outwardly therefrom.

18. The mounting bracket defined in claim 16, wherein the mounting bracket has a vertical plane of mirror symmetry that divides the upper mounting portion, the main body and the lower attachment portion into identical mirror images.

* * * * *

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 11,871,846 B2
APPLICATION NO. : 17/568353
DATED : January 16, 2024
INVENTOR(S) : William Duggins

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

In the Specification

Column 7, Line 9: Please correct “50” to read --60--

Column 7, Line 23: Please correct “151” to read --161--

In the Claims

Column 9, Line 23, Claim 16: Please correct “mechanism” to read --mechanism;--

Signed and Sealed this
Thirtieth Day of April, 2024

Katherine Kelly Vidal

Katherine Kelly Vidal
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office